

**From:** James Justin Fergerson  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Microsoft's proposed settlement for the antitrust case is outrageous. They are, with their proposal, thumbing their noses at the Justice Department. Their proposal has practically no disciplinary value and would unfairly increase their market share in an already competitive area (the education market). This action would also seriously cripple Apple Computer, a cooperative company that has driven the computer industry to continue to innovate. In my opinion, the Justice Department should discard their proposal outright.

A hefty monetary fine on Microsoft would not be an adequate punishment. Microsoft could just raise prices momentarily to cover their losses and still continue to do business as usual, making their monopoly stronger.

What I would suggest is to, once again, look into breaking up Microsoft. It is a very viable idea and would be easier to ensure that they do not continue to practice business illegally. Microsoft can be divided into three parts very easily: Operating Systems, software, hardware. In my opinion, this is the best method of punishing Microsoft not only because it curtails their strong-arm business tactics, but because it benefits the public with increased choices on the market.

Please remember that Microsoft has been taken through anti-trust suits before and been found to be conducting business in an overly hostile manner. In each case, Microsoft has broken their promises to do better and ignored restrictions placed on them. It is time to deal with this company and put it in its rightful place.

Thank you,  
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